

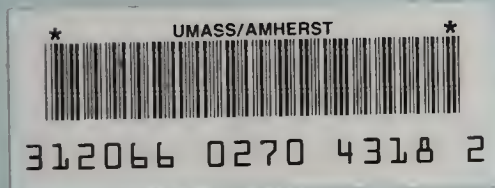
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CHILDREN IN MASSACHUSETTS: A DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Title XX Planning Unit
Office of Social Services
Department of Public Welfare
600 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02111

October, 1979



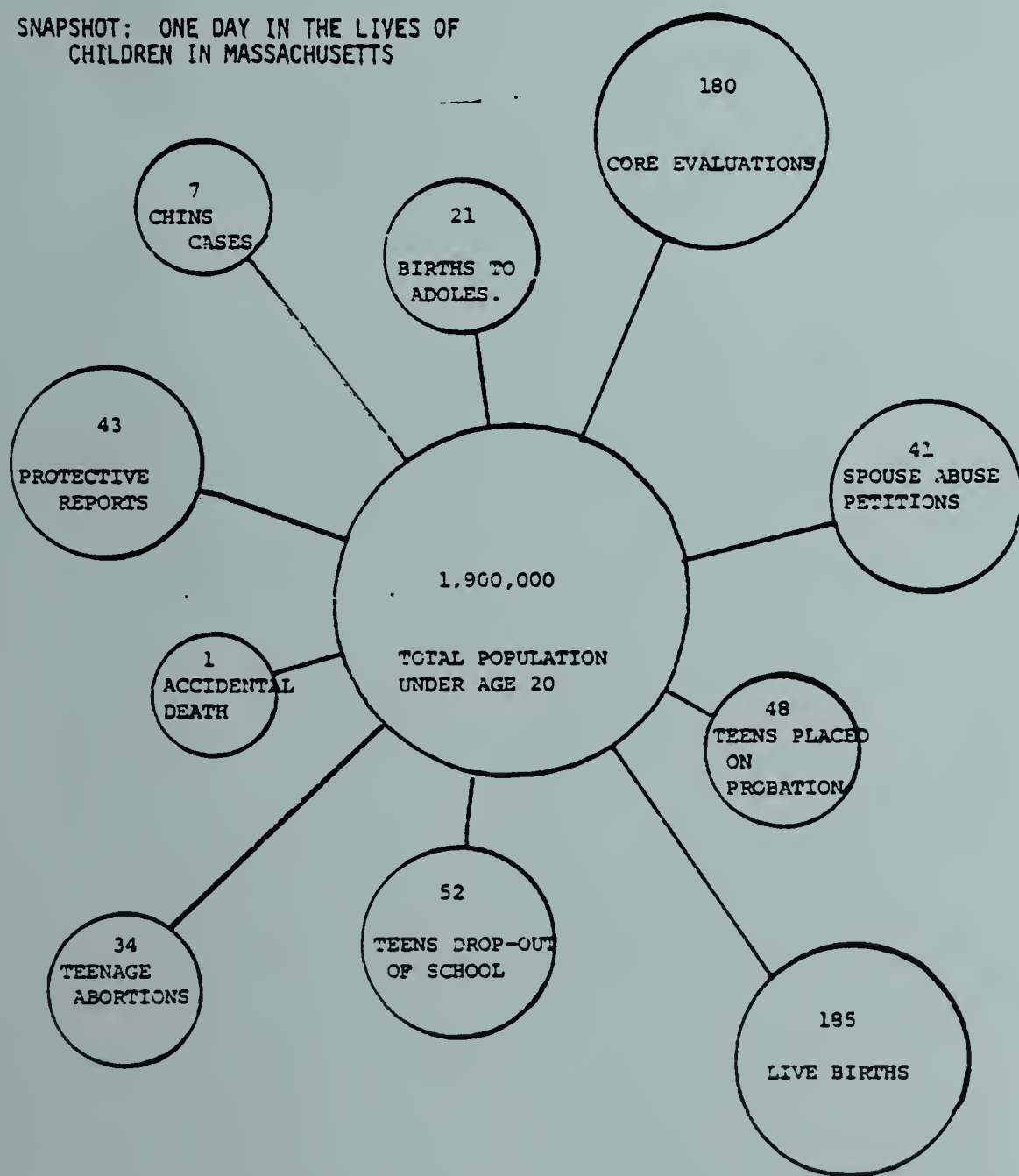
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SNAPSHOT: ONE DAY IN THE LIVES OF
CHILDREN IN MASSACHUSETTS



913/102

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA ON CHILDREN IN MASSACHUSETTS

This report summarizes the major data collection efforts of a number of public agencies. It provides an overview of the status of children in the Commonwealth and attempts to identify high risk populations who may require support services. Such information is an essential part of an efficient and effective human services delivery system. The following data items are included in the report:*

- 1) Total State Population
- 2) Children in Massachusetts
- 3) Live Births in Massachusetts
- 4) Infant Mortality
- 5) Infant Mortality Rate: State wide
- 6) Infant Mortality Rate by Catchment Area
- 7) AFDC Caseloads
- 8) Children on AFDC
- 9) Children in Care of the Department
- 10) Protective Services
- 11) Services to Adolescents
- 12) Juveniles on Probation
- 13) CORE Evaluation
- 14) School Dropouts
- 15) Births to Adolescents
- 16) Abortions
- 17) Domestic Violence
- 18) Female Headed Households

*In all cases, the most recent figures available are presented. The two major data sources are The Annual Report of Vital Statistics - 1977 from the Department of Public Health and the Title XX Area Profiles from the Department of Public Welfare.

The primary source of data for both documents is the 1970 U.S. Census Report.

1) TOTAL STATE POPULATION

Data Sources: Department of Public Welfare, Title XX Planning Unit

Department of Public Health, Office of State Health Planning

The total population has increased gradually since the last census.

Massachusetts population 1970: 5,689,170

1975: 5,812,489 (estimate)

1980: 5,937,010 (projection)

Table #1 presents the population distribution in 1975 in each of the six Executive Offices of Human Services Regions. (See maps at end of report for more information on geographic boundaries)

Table #1

	Western MA	Central MA	Merrimack Valley/ No. Shore	Greater Boston	SE MA Cape & Islands	Boston	State
#	818,794	676,766	1,126,269	1,443,988	971,287	775,385	5,812,489
%	14.1%	11.7%	19.4%	24.8%	16.7%	13.3%	100.0%

2) CHILDREN IN MASSACHUSETTS

Data Sources: Department of Public Welfare, Title XX Planning Unit
Department of Public Health, Office of State Health Planning

The total number of children under 20 in Massachusetts has decreased since 1970. However, the number of older adolescents (ages 15 - 19) has increased and by 1980 will comprise over 1/3 of the total population under 20.

Table #2 presents the population under 20 by age group for 1970, 1975, and 1980.

Table #2

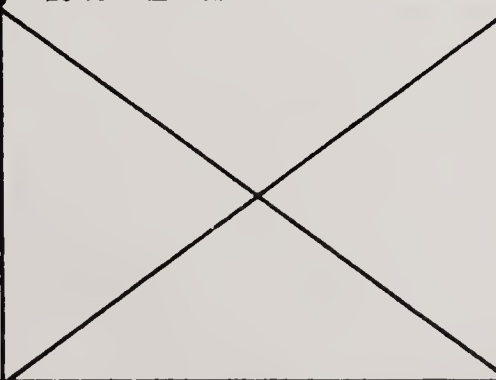
AGE	1970	1975	1980
Under 1	91,754	69,241	
1 - 4	378,312	279,537	
5 - 9	542,364	452,558	
10 - 14	555,393	527,379	
Sub-total	1,567,823	1,328,715	1,246,710
15 - 19	514,556	584,875	624,690
TOTAL	2,082,379	1,913,590	1,871,400

Table #3 presents the population under 18 in 1970 in the six Executive Offices of Human Services Regions.

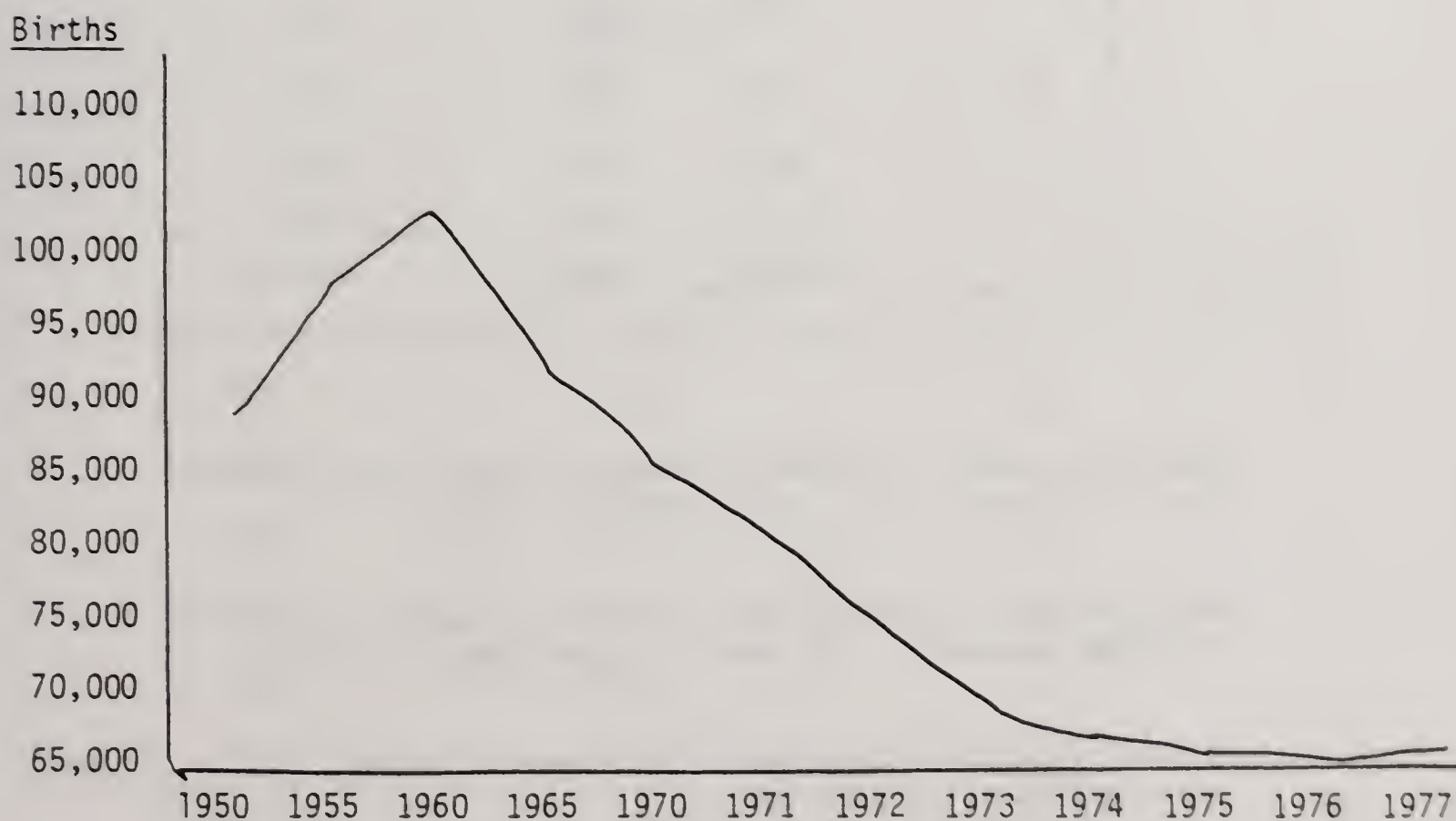
Table #3

	Western MA	Central MA	Merrimac Valley/ No. Shore	Greater Boston	SE MA Cape & Islands	Boston	State
#	252,551	231,938	382,791	485,634	294,124	218,871	1,865,909
%	13.5%	12.4%	20.5%	26.9%	15.7%	11.7%	100.0%

3) LIVE BIRTHS IN MASSACHUSETTS

Data Source: Department of Public Health, Annual Report of Vital Statistics - 1977

<u>Year</u>	<u># of births</u>
1950	95,619
1955	109,610
1960	114,018
1965	100,262
1970	93,582
1971	86,755
1972	76,835
1973	72,237
1974	70,071
1975	68,070
1976	65,947
1977	67,838
1978	68,526



The number of live births to Massachusetts residents peaked in 1960. This was followed by a marked, and later more gradual, decrease until 1977. In 1977, the number of births increased to 67,838, 2.8% more than the previous year. A slight increase continued in 1978 with 68,526 births recorded.

4) INFANT MORTALITY

Data Source: Department of Public Health
Annual Report of Vital Statistics - 1977

In 1977, 1,557 children under 20 died in Massachusetts.

Table #4 presents a breakdown by age and cause of death.

Table #4

Age	Total	Accidents	Car Accidents
less than 1	803		
1 - 4	110	33	
5 - 9	106	25	27
10 - 14	134	23	27
15 - 19	404	49	190
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,557	130	244

--Non-motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death for 1 - 4 year olds (approximately 30.0%).

--Motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death for children between 5 - 19 years (approximately 38.0%).

--Almost one-half of the deaths of older adolescents (15 - 19 years) were caused by auto accidents.

5) INFANT MORTALITY RATE: STATEWIDE

Data Sources: Department of Public Welfare, Title XX Planning Unit
Department of Public Health, Office of State Health Planning

Infant mortality in Massachusetts has shown a dramatic decrease over the past half-century. In 1920, the infant mortality rate was 91 per 1000 live births. In 1930 it was 60 and in 1940 it had fallen to 38. By 1970 it had reached 17 and in 1977 it was reduced to 12, which is lower than the National average of 14.

Table #5 depicts the decrease in the Infant Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 year per 1000 live births) since 1962.

Table #5

Year	Number of Deaths	Per 1,000 Live Birth
1962	2,491	22
1964	2,284	21
1967	1,877	20
1970	1,583	17
1972	1,164	15
1974	976	14
1975	799	13
1977	806	12

6) INFANT MORTALITY RATE BY CATCHMENT AREA

Data Source: Department of Public Welfare, Title XX Planning Unit

The decrease in Infant Mortality rates statewide can be misleading. It does not reflect geographic variances, nor does it acknowledge the link between poverty and infant mortality. To obtain a more accurate picture, it is necessary to consider the Infant Mortality Rates by catchment area. The Title XX Area Profiles rank the 40 EOHS catchment areas by specific demographic indicators. The five catchment areas with the highest Infant Mortality Rates (Group I) in 1975 were:

GROUP I

	Infant Mortality Rate 1975	Per Capita Income 1970
Tufts	29.0	3,711
BU	27.0	3,711
Brockton	24.6	3,200
Taunton	24.5	3,633
New Bedford	23.2	3,476
Average	25.7	\$3,546

All five of the catchment areas in Group I are in the bottom quartile of the per capita income rankings.

The five catchment areas with the highest per capita income (Group II) in 1970 were:

GROUP II

Area	Infant Mortality Rate 1975	Per Capita Income 1970
Newton-Wellesley	10.0	\$ 6,359
Concord	4.8	5,100
Grtr. Framingham	7.2	4,923
Mystic Valley	11.3	4,679
Mass. Mental	10.8	4,564
Average	8.8	\$ 5,725

A comparison of Group I to Group II reinforces the correlation between infant mortality and poverty. Not only is there an inverse relationship between these two variables, but the following additional observations can be made:

The Infant Mortality Rates for all catchment areas in Group I are at least twice the State average in 1977.

The Infant Mortality Rates for all catchment areas in Group I are greater than the State average over 15 years ago.

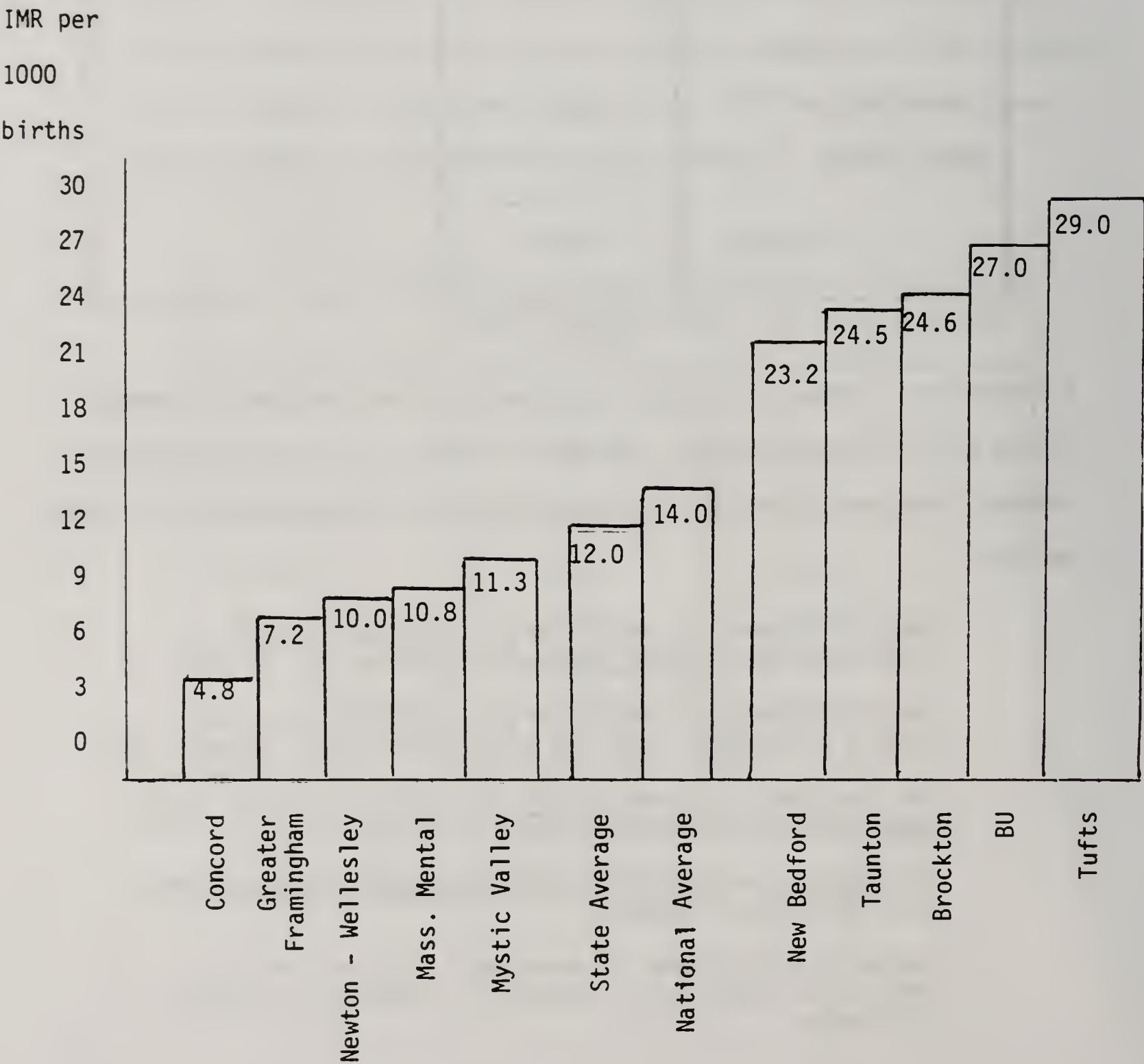
The five areas in Group II all have Infant Mortality Rates lower than the state average.

The average rate for Group I is over three times greater than the Group II average.

Comparing the extremes in each group (highest rate in Group I to lowest rate in Group II), there is a six fold difference.

Table #6 depicts the dramatic differences in the Infant Mortality Rates between the two groups.

Table #6



7) AFDC CASELOADS

Data Source: Department of Public Welfare
CAER Report - August 1979

Table #7 shows the regional distribution of AFDC cases. (Based on monthly average Jan. - Dec. 1978.)

Table #7

	Western MA	Central MA	Merrimac Valley N. Shore	Greater Boston	SE. MA Cape & Islands	Boston	State
#	19,527	12,990	24,264	14,960	22,067	27,561	121,369
%	16.1%	10.7%	20.0%	12.3%	18.2%	22.7%	100.0%

The Boston Region has 13.3% of the total state population, but almost 23% of the AFDC cases.

On the other hand, Greater Boston, with over 24% of the population, has 12.3% of the state AFDC caseload.

8) CHILDREN ON AFDC

Data Source: Department of Public Welfare
Recipient Master File - 2/79

Table #8 shows the number of children on AFDC by age in each region.

Table #8

Age	Western MA	Central MA	Merrimac Valley/ N. Shore	Greater Boston	SE MA Cape & Islands	Boston	Total
0-23 mo.	4,817	3,317	4,947	3,910	5,001	7,014	29,006
2-5 yr.	10,998	7,962	11,399	6,634	12,811	16,360	66,164
6-11 yr.	17,018	12,281	21,938	12,737	15,602	25,477	105,053
12-16 yr.	<u>12,613</u>	<u>9,315</u>	<u>15,093</u>	<u>10,412</u>	<u>14,453</u>	<u>21,061</u>	<u>82,947</u>
Total	45,446	32,875	53,377	33,693	47,867	69,912	283,170

Boston Region has less than 12% of the total population under 18, but almost 25% of the children on AFDC.

Approximately 32% of all the children in Boston are on AFDC.*

* Please note that this figure is based on 1978 AFDC caseload data and 1970 population data.

9) CHILDREN IN CARE OF THE DEPARTMENT

Data Source: Department of Public Welfare
Children Information System - 6/79

The Department of Public Welfare has legal responsibility for approximately 9,800 children under the age of 21. This figure has remained fairly stable since 1974. Almost 2/3 of the children are court referred and 1/3 are voluntary placements requested by the child's parent or guardian. The breakdown of the "in-care" population is below:

<u>Placement</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
Foster Care	6,720	69%
Group Care	1,800	18%
Special Treatment Facilities	440	4%
At Home	880	9%
	<u>9,800</u>	<u>100%</u>

Table #9 shows the age distribution of the children in care of the Department (Does not include 1,800 in group care facilities).

Table #9

Age	#	%
0 - 2	340	4.3%
3 - 6	1,140	14.2%
7 - 13	2,330	29.1%
14 - 15	1,060	13.3%
16 - 18	2,390	29.9%
19 +	620	7.8%
Unknown	170	1.4%
TOTAL	8,000	100.0%

Approximately 50% of the foster care population is between the ages of 12 - 18.

Approximately 70% of the group care population is between the ages or 12 - 18.

10) PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Data Source: Department of Public Welfare
Protective Service Reports - May 1978
Office of Research and Evaluation

The number of reported incidents of child abuse and neglect has increased dramatically in the last three years. In FY'77, the Department received 5,994 protective reports. This doubled in FY'78 to 11,157 and reached 15,687 in FY'79. (It is important to keep in mind that new reporting mechanisms were implemented, as well as increased public awareness and media coverage of this issue.) Based on a projected increase of 25% each year, the Department anticipates 20,000 protective reports in FY'80 and 25,000 in FY'81. In May 1978, the Office of Research and Evaluation conducted a case review of 1,052 of the 1,437 reports received that month.

Some of the highlights of the findings are:

Over half (53%) of the reported cases were reports of neglect. 21% were reported cases of abuse.

50% of the children were under age 7; 25% were under age 4.

90% of the children were in their natural homes.

50% of the reported cases had only a female caretaker present.

Almost 50% of the reported cases derived at least part of their income from AFDC or GR.

The average age of the mother was 30.5 years who had her first pregnancy as a teen-ager.

Almost 1/3 of the reported cases required removing the child from the home.

11) SERVICES TO ADOLESCENTS

Data Source: Department of Public Welfare
Title XX Adolescent Study - March 1979

Diagnostic Study of Massachusetts Children in
 Need of Services Program - Abt Associates 1978

According to estimates from the Office of State Health Planning, there are approximately 850,000 youth between 12 - 20 years in Massachusetts (1975).

Table #10 shows the distribution of adolescents in the state by region.

Table #10

	Western MA	Central MA	Merrimac Valley	Greater Boston	SE MA Cape	Boston	Total
#	110,500	93,500	178,500	229,500	153,000	85,000	850,000
%	13.0%	11.8%	21.0%	27.9%	18.0%	10.0%	100.0%

The Department delivers the majority of its services to adolescents through two programs, Foster Care and Children in Need of Services (CHINS).

Foster Care: There are approximately 3,250 adolescents in foster homes. According to the data collected by the Title XX Planning Unit, the demand for foster care correlates strongly and positively with the following demographic indicators of need: poverty, urban, single parent households, non-white population, AFDC caseloads, etc.

Table #11 shows the distribution of adolescents in foster care by region (based on address of natural parents).

Table #11

	Western MA	Central MA	Merrimac Valley	Greater Boston	SE MA Cape & Islands	Boston	Total
#	520	488	658	320	534	730	3,250
%	16.0%	15.0%	20.2%	9.8%	16.4%	22.5%	100.0%

The number of adolescents in the population is not an indicator of need for services. Boston has only 10% of the State's adolescent population but almost 23% of the adolescents in foster care. (The reverse is true for the Greater Boston Region.)

Children in Need of Services (CHINS):

This program was created in July of 1977 as part of an effort to minimize court involvement in status offense cases (truants, run-aways, and stubborn children). CHINS services, counseling, placement, emergency shelter, etc., are provided without regard to income. In 1978, the Department received 2,400 new CHINS referrals from juvenile and district courts. It is expected that this figure will remain stable in 1979.

Table #12 shows the regional distribution of CHINS referrals (based on a 6 month sample from January - June 1979 and doubled for annual intake figures).

Table #12

Western MA	Central MA	Merrimac Valley/ No. Shore	Greater Boston	SE MA Cape & Islands	Boston	Total
398	566	505	278	398	255	2,400
16.6%	23.6%	21.0%	11.6%	16.6%	10.6%	100.0%

According to the Abt Study, CHINS have the following characteristics:

- The majority are from two parent homes
- No more than one third are on AFDC
- Approximately 85% are white
- Almost 50% are runaways

Unlike the adolescent foster care population, CHINS cases do not correlate significantly with poverty, urban density, or juveniles on probation.

12) JUVENILES ON PROBATION

Data Source: Commissioner of Probation
Research Department 12/77 (Aggregated by Title XX Planning Unit)

Table #13 shows the number of juveniles on probation or under court supervision by region.

Table #13

	Western MA	Central MA	Merrimac Valley / N. Shore	Greater Boston	SE MA Cape & Islands	Boston	Total
#	2,455	1,701	2,499	3,558	3,311	4,104	17,628
%	13.9%	9.6%	14.2%	20.2%	18.8%	23.3%	100.0%

Unlike CHINS court referrals, juvenile probation figures correlate strongly and positively with the major demographic indicators of poverty (i.e., AFDC caseloads, high density, non-white population, and female headed households.)

13) CORE EVALUATIONS

Data Source: Department of Education - August 1979

In accordance with Chapter 766, public schools provide Core evaluations to assess a child's need for special education programs. An evaluation can be requested by the child's parents and includes the following components: psychological assessment, educational assessment, family assessment, medical assessment, and educational history review.

Core evaluations can be performed on any child between the ages of 3 - 21 who is in school. In 1978, 65,500 Core evaluations were performed, and 58,350 children were assessed as needing special education services (89%).

14) SCHOOL DROPOUTS

Data Source: Department of Education - September 1979

In 1978, 78,300 persons graduated from high school in Massachusetts. For the same year, approximately 19,000 adolescents dropped out of school. Almost 1/4 (or 4,550) of these adolescents stated that their major reason for leaving school was economic (i.e., required the income of a full-time job). For every 5 high school students in the state, 4 graduate and 1 drops out.

15) BIRTHS TO ADOLESCENTS

Data Source: Department of Public Health
Annual Report of Vital Statistics - 1977

There were 67, 838 live births to Massachusetts residents in 1977. Approximately 11.5% or 7,832 births were to mothers under age 20. Table #14 breaks down the total births by age of mother.

Table #14

Age of Mother	Live Births
Under 15	87
15	270
16	792
17	1,477
18	2,293
19	2,913
Sub-total	7,832
20 - 29	44,551
30 - 39	14,873
over 40	582
	67,838

16) ABORTIONS

Data Source: Department of Public Health
Office of State Health Planning

The number of reported abortions performed has increased in the last three years. In 1976 there were 32,800 abortions reported. This increased to 34,380 in 1977 and to 40,200 in 1978. A portion of this increase is due to improved reporting techniques.

Based on a two-month sample, it was determined that about 30.8% of the women receiving abortions were adolescents (under age 20). In 1978, an estimated 12,400 abortions were performed on adolescents. There are 3 abortions for every 2 births to women under 20. To women under 15, there are 9 abortions for every birth.

17) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Data Source: Department of Public Welfare
Title XX Planning Unit

Chapter 209A provides victims of domestic violence with the right of petition. The law went into effect in July 1978. Based on a 6 month sample (1/79 - 6/79) of all probate courts in Massachusetts, it is estimated that a total of 14,720 petitions will be filed this year. 98% of the petitions are women filing against men, and 67% indicate that physical injury has been sustained.

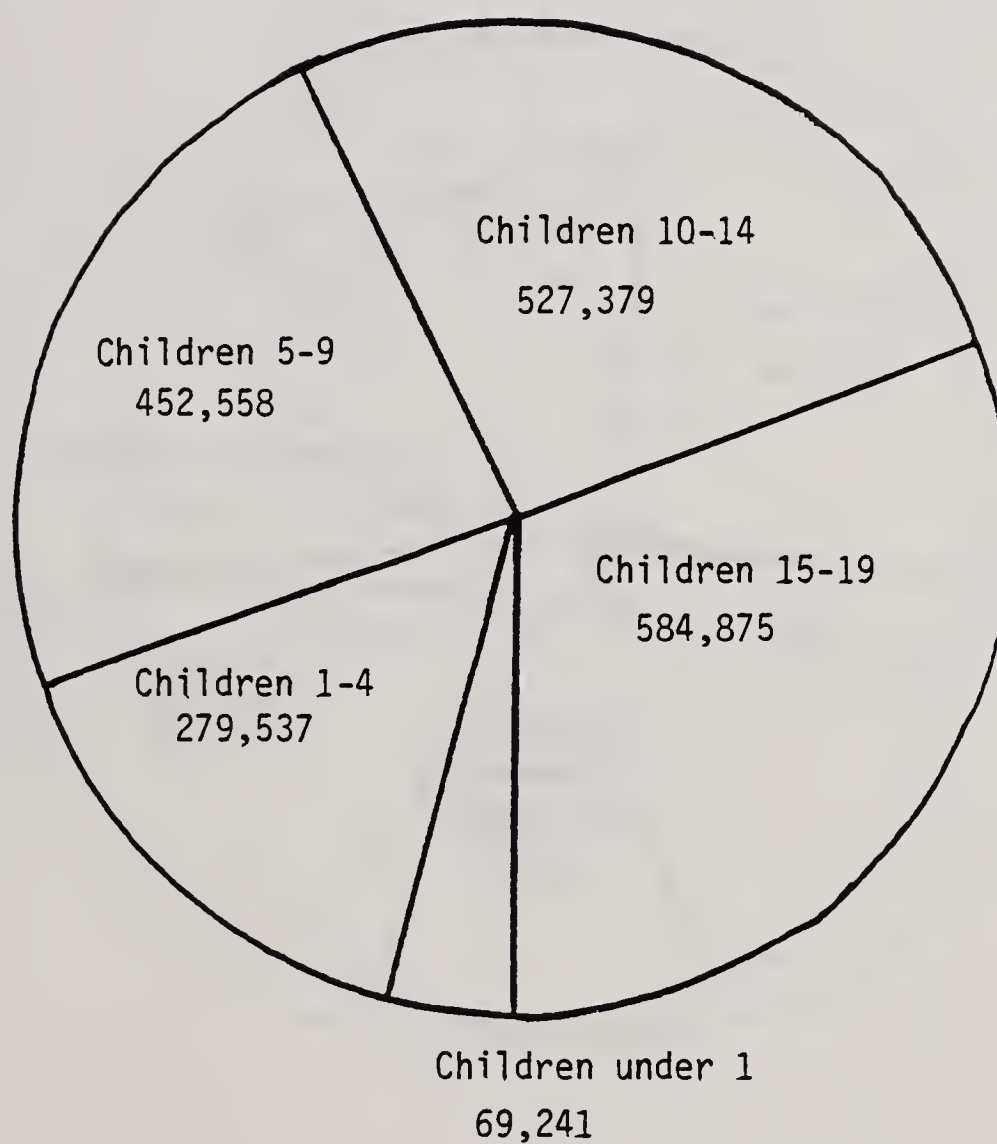
18) FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

Data Source: Department of Commerce - Bureau of the Census
Demographic, Social, and Economic Profile of States-1976

There are 1,963,000 households in Massachusetts and approximately 211,000 are headed by women. A study conducted in 1977 by the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, found that 78% of all female headed households are families with two or more persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption. Furthermore, the findings indicated that there is an average of 1.23 children in each female headed family. Applying those ratios to Massachusetts, there are an estimated 164,000 female headed families with 202,400 children under 18.

Chart #1

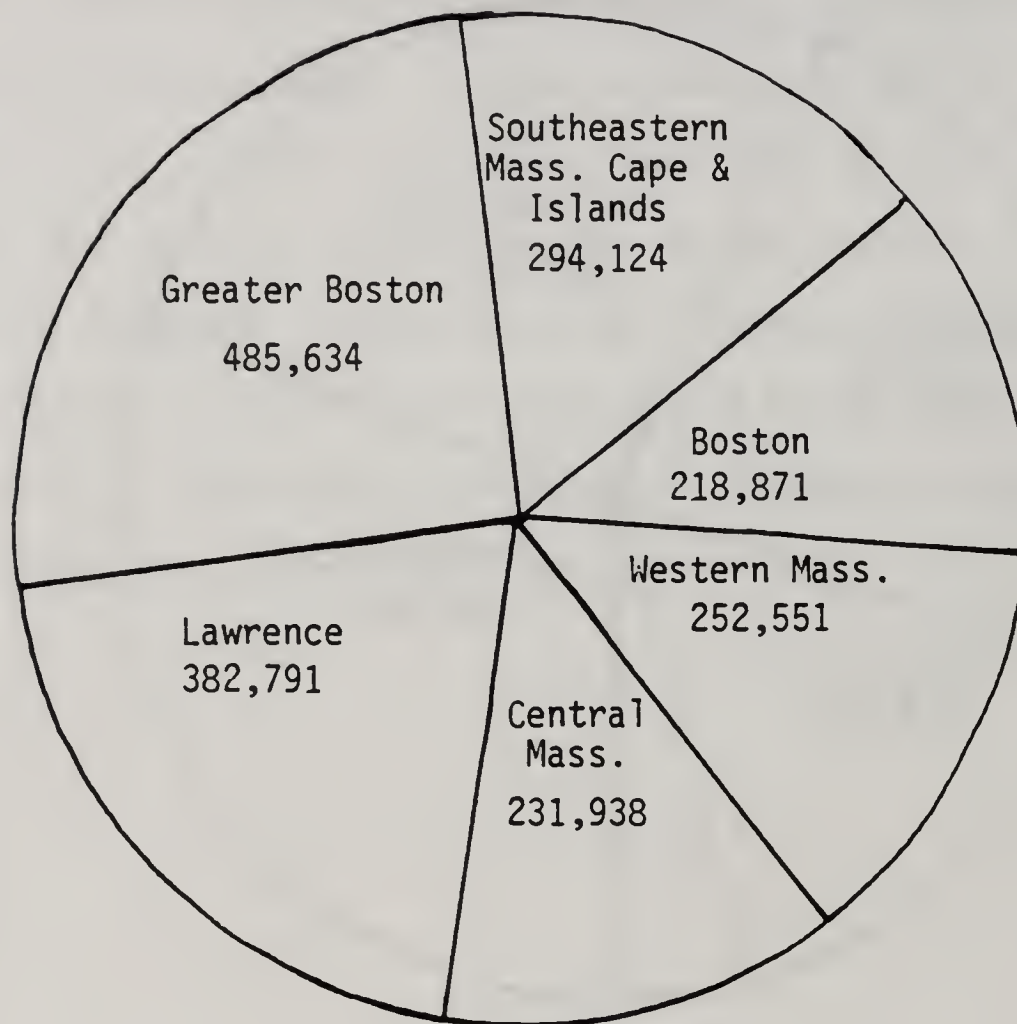
POPULATION UNDER AGE 20*: 1975



*Total Massachusetts population: 5,816,176
Total Massachusetts population under 20: 1,913,590
Office of State Health Planning

Chart #2

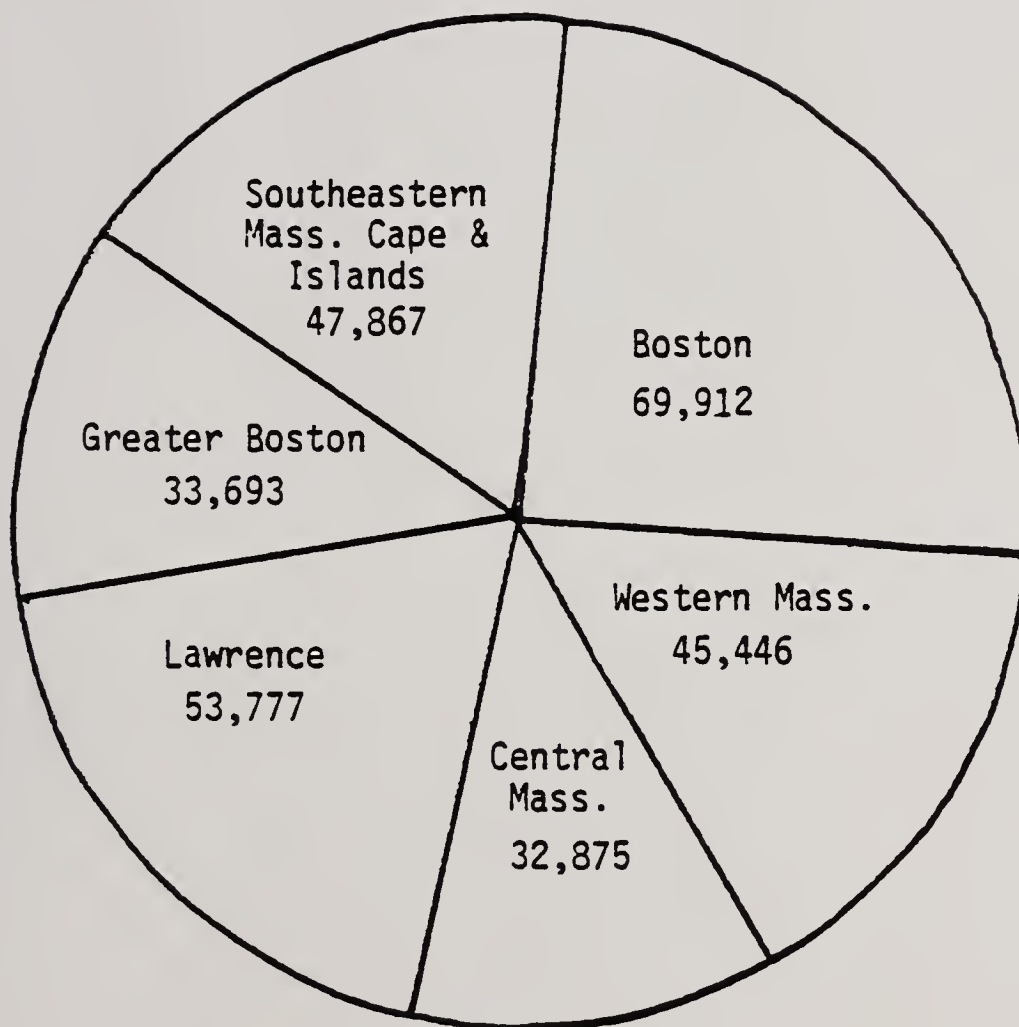
CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 BY REGION*: 1970



*Total population under 18: 1,865,909
Title XX Area Profiles 11/78

Chart #3

CHILDREN UNDER 18 ON AFDC BY REGION*



*Total number of children on AFDC: 283,770
DPW Recipient Masterfile 2/79

